

3731

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: SCHMIEL ET AL.
Serial No.: 09/921,008
Filed: 08/02/2001
Confirmation No.: 5027
Title: POSTERIOR OBLIQUE LUMBAR ARTHRODESIS

Examiner: UNKNOWN
Group Art Unit: 3731
Docket: 6683.47US11



CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence and the paper(s), as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on March 26, 2002.

By: JERAL V. DUDZAN

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement and Form 1449
- ☒ Return postcard

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Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
612.332.5300

By: Nancy J. Parsons
Name: Nancy J. Parsons
Reg. No.: 40,364
NParsons:PSTjvd





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S/N 09/921,008

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: SCHMIEL ET AL. Examiner: UNKNOWN
Serial No.: 09/921,008 Group Art Unit: 3731
Filed: August 2, 2001 Docket No.: 6683.47USII
Title: POSTERIOR OBLIQUE LUMBAR ARTHRODESIS

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence and the paper(s), as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on March 20, 2002.

By: Jean V. DuZan
JEAN V. DUZAN

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted before the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits. Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is not provided because it was previously cited by or submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in parent application, U.S. Serial No. 09/630,793 filed on August 2, 2000.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked

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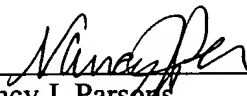
as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: 3/20/02



Nancy J. Parsons
Reg. No. 40,364
NJP:PSTjvd

